compulsory use of jute in packaging in certain sectors and what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) A total amount of Rs. 150 crores has been earmarked by the financial insituations under the Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme to be utilised over a period of 5 years beginning from 1st November, 1986. Out of this an amount of Rs. 3.63 crores was disbursed to 4 jute mills upto 30th September, 1988.

(b) and (c) The All India Flat Tape Manufacturers Association have alleged in a representation made to the Government that the financial institutions are providing liberal financial assistance to the jute industry for the duty-free import of HDPE tape plant and circular looms ostensibly for the manufacture of poly jute bags. The factual position is that the financial institutions have not sanctioned any assistance for import of plastic tape lines under the Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme. However, loans are being sanctioned for installation of circular looms along with the tape lines to enable the jute mills to modernise their weaving section and to manufacture HDPE union jute bags. While the jute industry enjoys duty-free import facility for circular looms along with various other specified list of machinery items to assist it under the modernisation programme, plastic tape lines do not form part of this list.

(d) It is clarified that the definition of "Jute pacaking material" under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 means any packaging material containing not less then 75% by weight of jute.

Export of the products of Orissa based aluminium company

*289. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to export the entire production of the Orissa based National Aluminium Company during 1988-89;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this decision will lead to large scale shortage of the critical raw material; and

(c) what is the need for the Government to take this decision on the heels of the shifting of aluminium imports from the canalised to the open general licence list which itself was opposed by domestic user industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Orissa based National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) will be exporting a part of its production around 3,80,000 tonnes of surplus Alumina and about 15,000 tonnes of high grade Aluminium metal after fully meeting the statutory obligation of production of Electrical Conductor Grade Aluminium for domestic consumption during 1988-89.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Aluminium including aluminium rods were placed on OGL with effect from 26th July, 1988 with marginal level of customs duty of Rs. 500 per tonne in order to bridge any demand-supply gap. The decision to export some quantity of alumina and aluminium was taken by the Government while reviewing the balance of payments position.

Central assistance to remove exploitation of tribals by middlemen in the trade relating to minor forest produce in Madhya Pradesh

*290. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: